

Seventy airmen from dozen different bases become one **75th ESS** leaves their mark

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commander

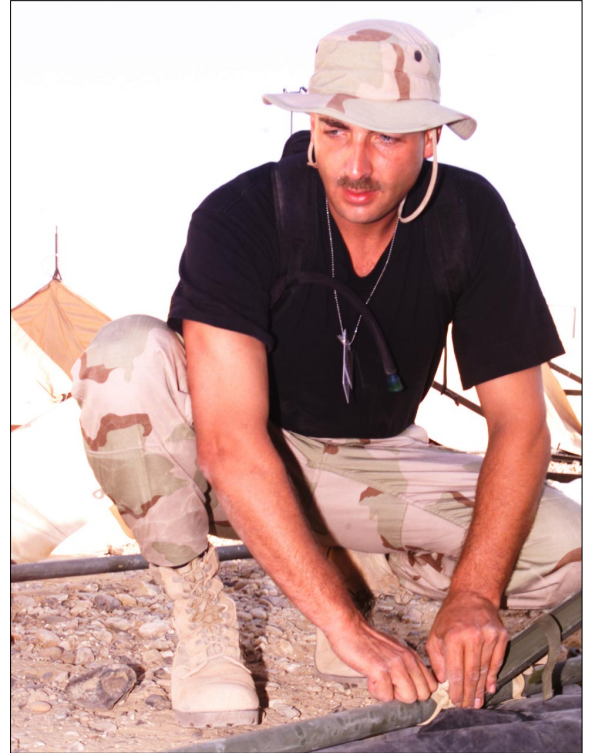
What an amazing achievement you, the men and women of the 75th Expeditionary Support Squadron, have all been apart of. To put it mildly I am simply in awe of what you have accomplished. Over the past 60 days, you 70 professionals from more than a dozen different bases have come together to form a team that has without a doubt accomplished every mission laid before you.

When we arrived at sunny Qui Web well over two months ago, there was nothing here but a road and a lot of well made plans. Since that time you have successfully in-processed in excess of 1,600 Bright Star participants through the Joint Reception Center and maintained accountability of more than 1,000 personnel moving between five different locations. You built and maintained a 9-1 Harvest Falcon Dining Facility from which you served more than 120,000 hot meals. You helped build more than 133 Temper tents and billeted more than 1,000 Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine personnel in them. You provided for 24-hour fitness and recreational support, developed and executed the finest Sports Day in the area of responsibility and made available 24-hour morale phones and email to all our guests. You should all feel proud! No one impacts base morale like the 75th ESS.

When world events sent us spiraling into Force Protection Condition Delta, you never batted an eye. You willingly put on your web gear, grabbed your C-bags and continued to do your job in the professional manner for which you have become known.

At some point we have all questioned our contribution to the mission. At Cairo West, everything you have done has positively impacted the mission of Bright Star; this exercise is a success because you were so much a part of it. You can all hold your heads high and tell your co-workers and loved ones back home that yes, I was over there and we kicked ass!

Now that we're all going our separate ways and heading back home only to possibly prepare to redeploy, all I can say is thank you. I've learned more than I bargained for. It has truly been a pleasure to serve with you and I salute you.



Clockwise from top: SSgt. Dave Kiernan, 75th ESS inprocesses SSgt. Ray Rice, 822nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron. The 75th ESS inprocessed more than 1,600 Bright Star participants throughout the exercise. MSgt. Douglas Mills, 75th ESS, helps build tents. As part of the ADVON team, 75th ESS and the 75th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron were responsible for building 85 percent of tent city. A1C Jeffery McGee, 75th ECS, takes orders for laundry. Airmen not only had the opportunity to do their own laundry, but the 75th ESS stood up a tent that airmen could drop off their laundry to be cleaned by a contractor.



Photos by SrA Chrissy Szczepanski

